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About Game Tracks

Game Tracks aims to keep landholders, hunters and other stakeholders informed about issues relating to wildlife and game management in Tasmania. It also aims to promote and facilitate ethical, responsible, humane hunting and harvesting practices which are consistent with State and Commonwealth wildlife management and conservation programs.

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Frequently used acronyms

DPIPWE: Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
NCH: Natural and Cultural Heritage.
GST: Game Services Tasmania

Publication and Distribution

Game Tracks is an annual publication with copies available for all Tasmanian Game Licence holders, rural landholders and interested stakeholders.

Copies are available from Service Tasmania or from the DPIPWE website dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Disclaimer

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Contents

About Game Tracks .......... 3
Message from the Minister .......... 4
Open Seasons .......... 5
General Regulations .......... 6
Waterfowl Identification Test .......... 8
Game Services Tasmania .......... 10
Wildlife Investigation and Enforcement .......... 12
Tasmanian Game Council .......... 14
Regulations Review .......... 15
Hunting on Public Land .......... 15
Fallow Deer .......... 18
Personal Take Record Form .......... 22
Fallow Deer Research .......... 25
Wallaby .......... 27
1080 Poison .......... 28
Wild Duck .......... 29
Avian Influenza Survey .......... 31
Short-tailed Shearwater .......... 32
Common Pheasant .......... 33
Brown Quail .......... 34
King Island .......... 35
Offender File .......... 37
Safe Transport and Use of Firearms .......... 38
Contacts .......... 39
As Minister for Primary Industries and Water I am pleased to welcome you to the 2020 edition of Game Tracks.

The Hodgman Liberal Government recognises hunting is an important tradition and way of life for many Tasmanians that also has conservation and production agriculture benefits. The Government continues to roll out a number of initiatives modernising game management in Tasmania.

In 2018, we established Game Services Tasmania (GST) which has become increasingly recognised over the past year by landholders and hunters as a first point of contact for game management. I know many of you already regularly contact GST on a wide range of game-related issues and I encourage this to continue.

We formed the Tasmanian Game Council last year which, chaired by Greg Hall, considered a number of game management issues, providing me with advice. I thank Greg and the Council for their input and look forward to continuing to receive their advice in 2020.

We made available three additional parcels of reserve land for deer hunting in the 2019 season. Access to these areas together with two parcels of Hydro managed land was provided through a ballot system, which attracted a record 497 individual hunter applications, forming 202 hunting parties. Additional areas of reserve land are also planned to be made available for deer hunting in the 2020 season, increasing the land available to hunters.

We commenced our comprehensive state-wide census of wild fallow deer in Tasmania, with the aerial survey component of the survey being completed in October 2019. Complementary camera trap and citizen science surveys will be commencing in the coming months with the results collected to provide valuable baseline data to underpin future deer management. The census will also deliver additional value through providing an abundance estimate for Forester kangaroo as the habitat range of the two species overlap.

Of particular interest to many licence holders, the Government also this year implemented a suite of measures to help farmers and landholders better manage wild deer populations. The measures include the provision of five year Crop Protection Permits for antlerless deer, the removal of quotas and tags for antlerless deer for both holders of Crop Protection Permits and Deer Licences and the extension of the hunting season for antlerless deer to now run from March to November. No changes are being made to the management of male antlered deer and annual take returns will still be required. These measures will be in place by 2020 and I thank the Game Council, TFGA, Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee and Australian Deer Association for their constructive advice in this space.

We have also been working with the Game Council and other stakeholders to develop a clear and contemporary statement articulating Quality Deer Management as the continuing basis for the management of wild fallow deer across Tasmania. This work has been finalised and I again thank the Game Council, in particular, for their efforts and advice.

2019 has been a year which has seen significant progress in the continued implementation of the Government’s package of game management commitments, with the forward work plan for 2020 looking similarly full. As always, your views as hunters and landholders are important and I look forward to your continued engagement.

I wish you successful and safe hunting and hope that you enjoy this issue of Game Tracks.

Guy Barnett
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
### Open Seasons and Licence Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Seasons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fallow Deer</td>
<td>$72.90</td>
<td>29 February – 5 April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Male Fallow Deer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antlerless Fallow Deer</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 March – 15 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Duck</td>
<td>$32.40</td>
<td>7 March – 8 June 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muttonbird</td>
<td>$32.40</td>
<td>4 April – 19 April 2020 (TBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallaby</td>
<td>$32.40</td>
<td>24 February 2020 – 21 February 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Quail</td>
<td>$32.40</td>
<td>16 May – 28 June 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Pheasant</td>
<td>$16.20</td>
<td>6 June – 7 June 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Who Needs a Game Licence?

Any person wishing to hunt deer, wild duck, muttonbird, wallaby, brown quail or pheasant during the gazetted open seasons in Tasmania will require a Game Licence.

### Purchasing a Game Licence

Hunters can apply for Game Licences for one or more game species at the same time, or individually as required, from 1 February each year:

There are three ways to apply for a Game Licence:

1. In person at any Service Tasmania shop
2. Complete an application form and post this with your cheque or money order to:
   Natural and Cultural Heritage Division
   Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
   GPO Box 44
   HOBART TAS 7001

A 20 per cent discount on the cost of a licence is available to holders of a current Pensioner Concession Card (DHS and DVA), DHS Health Care Card (for beneficiaries and/or dependents named on the Card), Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (DHS or DVA) or a Tasmanian Seniors Card.

For further assistance, please contact NCH.
Important regulations applicable to all wildlife species subject to an open season are listed below:

- Unless you have a Crop Protection Permit, hunting at night (period between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise) is prohibited.
- Without the appropriate permit the use of baits, poison, and chemical compounds is prohibited.
- The use of live decoys, traps, snares, spears, bows and arrows, explosives, bird lime and unauthorised chemical compounds is prohibited.
- Solid jacketed military ammunition is prohibited.
- The use of dogs to catch, kill or injure wildlife is prohibited.

The Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010 govern hunting in Tasmania and can be viewed at legislation.tas.gov.au

**Firearms Licence**

A current Firearms Licence is required when purchasing a Game Licence where a firearm is to be used for hunting unless an exemption is provided under the Firearms Act 1996 and the Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010.

Persons aged between 14 and 18 years are required to hold a current Tasmanian Minor’s (Firearms) Permit. For information on international visitor permits and other exemptions please contact the Tasmania Police Firearms Services.

**Renewals**

Prior to the open seasons each year Game Licence renewal application forms will be posted to hunters who:

- a) held a Game Licence during the previous year; and
- b) have provided their seasonal take return (harvest) information.

When applying for a Game Licence, applicants must advise of any relevant offences committed within the previous five year period.

**New Applicants**

New licence applicants (or previous licence holders who did not submit seasonal take information) must complete a licence application form which is available from ServiceTasmania shops, via the DPIPWE website dpipwe.tas.gov.au/RGL, or by contacting NCH.

When applying for a Game Licence, applicants must advise of any relevant offences committed within the previous five year period.

**Game Licence Card**

When a Game Licence is purchased, a Licence receipt is issued and a licence card is posted within ten working days.

The Licence receipt may be used as a temporary licence to hunt all species, including deer if purchased in person at ServiceTasmania and a male deer tag has been issued. However, if a Deer Licence is purchased through the mail or the internet, hunting of male deer cannot commence until the licence card and male deer tag have been received. The hunting of female antlerless deer may commence once a licence has been purchased.

If the Licence card is not received within ten working days, please contact NCH.

**Lost or Damaged Licence Cards and Tags**

To replace a lost or damaged Licence card, please forward a Game Licence Application form to NCH with the replacement option selected.

To replace lost or damaged deer tags, please contact NCH. A statutory declaration will be required.

**Seasonal Take (Harvest) Returns**

By mid-November, when the Game Seasons have closed for species other than wallaby, Game Licence holders should have received a Take (Harvest) Return form requesting information on their hunting activity.
This information is required annually from hunters and is used to ensure the sustainable management of Tasmania’s game species and forms the basis of the season reports provided in this publication.

Licence holders who have returned their Take (Harvest) Return form with information on their hunting activity will be sent a licence renewal application automatically by early February for the upcoming Game Seasons. Please note that Game Licence holders who have not returned their Take (Harvest) Return form will not be able to purchase a new Game Licence until they provide take information in writing. However, a Take (Harvest) Return will be accepted when forms are lodged when purchasing a Game Licence at any Service Tasmania Shop.

Use of Hunting Dogs

Hunting dogs may only be used during daylight hours to flush out permitted game from bush cover for accurate shooting at close range; and to locate and retrieve shot or wounded game to be humanely dispatched. For health and welfare reasons, hunting dogs should be kept muzzled to avoid the risk of them eating carcasses and transmitting diseases.

Hunters are reminded to ensure their dogs have received up-to-date worm treatments which include treatment for hydatids. Unwormed dogs can spread sheep measles (Cysticercus ovis) which can cause sheep carcasses to be condemned, and the false hydatid parasite (Cysticercus tenuicollis) which can cause liver damage. Treatment containing Praziquantel, used at a rate of 5 mg per kg of body weight, will prevent dogs hosting hydatids. If a dog’s worm treatment status is unknown, it should be wormed one week prior to visiting a property.

Animal Welfare for Pouch Young

DPIPWE is seeing increased numbers of animals requiring rehabilitation through the Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program during the wallaby and brushtail possum breeding seasons. When a hunter has taken an adult female wallaby or possum, it is their responsibility to check the pouch for young. Hunters in Tasmania are required, as a condition of their licence and for animal welfare reasons to inspect all shot adult female wallabies and possums and to humanely destroy any pouch young found, either by decapitation or by a heavy blow to the skull to destroy the brain, or by a shot to the brain. Under no circumstances should the pouch young or dependant young-at-foot be left to die. Under the Animal Welfare Act 1993 a person who has the care or charge of an animal has a duty to take all reasonable measures to ensure the welfare of the animal. See the website to view the act legislation.tas.gov.au

Other Species

Rabbits are classified as vermin under the Vermin Control Act 2000 and may be hunted at any time on Crown Land, State forest and on private land with the permission of the landholder. There is no bag limit and rabbits are normally taken with shotguns or rim-fire rifles, although any non-prohibited firearm may be used.

While hares are not classified as vermin, hares can be hunted under the same conditions that apply to rabbits.

Some domestic animals, such as pigs and goats, have become wild. Hunters and landholders can assist by reporting any sightings of suspected wild pigs and goats to Biosecurity Tasmania.

The provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 1993 apply to all hunting activities.
To obtain a licence to hunt wild duck in Tasmania, hunters must first pass a Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT). Applicants who successfully pass this test are issued with a Certificate of Proficiency and a unique WIT number. You must provide this WIT number the first time you purchase a Duck Licence in Tasmania. Information on the WIT assessment process is available online via the DPIPWE website: dpipwe.tas.gov.au/waterfowl-identification-testing.

Applicants must:

• Lodge a completed application form at a Service Tasmania Centre with payment of the $45 test fee.
• Wait to be contacted by the WIT coordinator to arrange a time for you to undertake a WIT.
• Study the Duck WISE video located on the DPIPWE website (link above) prior to the test date.
• Test your knowledge by completing the practice test. The practice test is available on the website link above.
• Present your receipt as well as evidence of your identity (Driver Licence or Firearms Licence) at your WIT test.
• Contact the WIT Coordinator if you require any additional support.

Tests will generally be conducted individually as the need arises, however group sessions for five or more applicants can be arranged. Duck WISE DVDs and practice test DVDs can be mailed out on request.
GST continues to support hunters and landholders to effectively manage browsing wildlife, game species and deer farms. GST is made up of seven team members that provide the following services across Tasmania:

- Advise on game and browsing wildlife management.
- Information on game hunting.
- Crop Protection Permits to manage wildlife impacting primary production.
- Permits relating to deer farms.
- Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT) to hunt game ducks.
- Managing deer in peri-urban areas.
- Management of 1080 poisoning for Bennett’s and rufous wallabies and brushtail possums.
- Tasmanian Game Council executive support.

Robin Thompson – Manager

Robin joined GST in early 2018. Robin has worked for the Department for over 40 years and has vast experience, understanding and working knowledge of Tasmanian production agriculture and agricultural policy. As a farmer himself, Robin appreciates the complex interaction between farmers, hunters, conservationists and the general community. Robin will continue to work closely with the Tasmanian Game Council, stakeholders and the GST team to deliver practical game and browsing wildlife management strategies.

Greg Hocking – Principal Wildlife Management Officer

Greg has worked in wildlife management since the 1980s and has developed a keen interest and understanding of Tasmanian game and browsing animal management. Greg has been responsible for management programs for a range of hunted wildlife species, and for the monitoring of the population trends of Tasmania’s wildlife, the results of which help GST manage wildlife sustainably. Greg is a strong supporter of hunters and landholders working together to produce better wildlife management outcomes.

Ellen Freeman – Wildlife Management Officer

Ellen has been a member of GST since 2018. Ellen has a degree in science, and a background in researching regulatory controls of deer in Australia and the diet of wild deer, along with experience working interstate in the field of wildlife management and research. In her time with GST Ellen has developed a strong connection with the farming, forestry, conservation and game hunting communities. In 2019 Ellen has been contributing to the deer census project and participated in in the aerial survey of fallow deer and Forester kangaroos. She is also interested in researching the biology of deer and other wildlife species to secure their sustainable management. Ellen is also interested in property based game management, and the important role that game hunters play in managing wildlife impacting on primary production.
Rebecca (Bec) Williams – Wildlife Management Officer

Bec has been a member of GST since May 2019. Coming from an agricultural science background Bec has experience in cropping field work, land management and agricultural policy and has extensive networks within the farming community. Bec has a solid understanding of the pressure game and browsing wildlife bring to farming systems. Bec also has a keen interest in providing extension services to support the Tasmanian farming community and hunters to effectively manage crop protection.

Jonathan Knox – Wildlife Management Officer

Jonathan came to Wildlife Management in 2011 with a background in pasture management and agricultural extension. He spent 5 years collating information on the cost of wallabies to farming, the need for effective planning in wallaby control, building wallaby fences and effective shooting. Jonathan enjoys engaging with stakeholders about protecting crops and pasture from losses to wildlife. Jonathan’s role also includes helping farmers with permits and alternate methods for managing a wide range of species including birds, Forester kangaroos and deer. Jonathan sees the farming landscape of Northern Tasmania as a wonderful example of wildlife and humans thriving together.

David White – Wildlife Management Officer

David, also known as Whitey, transferred to GST from Biosecurity Tasmania in August 2019. Whitey brings 35 years of experience in the chemical control of vermin, browsing native animals and nuisance birds. In his former position as a stock inspector he gained extensive knowledge of animal husbandry and emergency disease response. He is committed to reducing numbers of over abundant species to promote sustainable biodiversity of flora and fauna and increase productivity on Tasmanian farms.

Shane Keeler – Wallaby Management Coordinator, King Island

Shane was appointed as a Wallaby Coordinator on King Island in March 2013. Shane has developed and coordinated the implementation of a wallaby management strategy on King Island aimed at reducing wallaby damage to pasture, crops and native vegetation on private and public land. Shane continues to work with, and visit, individual landowners to review property specific wallaby management which focuses on the combination of shooting programs and the installation of wallaby fences. Being born on King Island Shane has a good working relationship with landowners. Shane also has a keen interest in monitoring the fallow deer population on King Island.
Wildlife Investigation and Enforcement


In 2019 three new Wildlife Rangers joined the team.

**Matt Byrne**

In February 2019, Matt Byrne transferred into the position of Wildlife Ranger. Known to many landowners and hunters across the state from his previous role in game management, Matt brings with him over 30 years of Tasmanian wildlife management experience. Along with the team of other Wildlife Ranger’s, Matt’s role will support the NCH Division’s diverse investigations and enforcement needs, including Wildlife and Aboriginal heritage matters.

**Sam Lloyd**

Sam has recently transferred to the Wildlife Investigation and Enforcement Section from Tasmania Police. Bringing with him skills from criminal investigation and rural policing roles, Sam has over 16 years of law enforcement experience in Australia and the United Kingdom. Sam actively supports and values community co-operation in achieving positive enforcement and compliance objectives and looks forward to working with the community and stakeholders in his new role.

**Daniel Midson**

Daniel arrived at the Wildlife Ranger role after 10 years with Tasmania Police. During his time with Tasmania Police he was stationed in the Central Highlands for two years at Liawenee. There he worked closely with local land owners and Wildlife Rangers targeting illegal shooting and wildlife poaching. He brings a strong investigative background and local knowledge to the Wildlife Ranger, Investigations and Enforcement team.

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The Tasmanian Game Council (TGC), under the leadership of the Chair Mr Greg Hall, has met three times in 2019. The meetings in March, June and October were characterised by passionate discussion on a range of issues about which Minister Barnett sought advice. These include:

- Implementation of a five-year Crop Protection Permit for deer.
- Conduct of the deer census.
- Development of a contemporary statement of Quality Deer Management.
- Feasibility of conducting a trial to evaluate the potential for value adding business opportunities to supply wild deer products for commercial purposes.

The role of TGC members is to provide advice to the Minister on issues requested for consideration by the Minister and contained in the annual work plan. Final decisions on all issues are made by the Minister, based on advice received from the TGC and other sources of advice as appropriate. One of the important characteristics of the TGC is the ability of its members to engage with a wide network of stakeholders, so their diverse range of thoughts and opinions can be brought to Council discussions. Stakeholders are therefore encouraged to share their thoughts with Council members.

Figure 1. Members of the Tasmanian Game Council and Minister Guy Barnett
Standing from left to right: Anthony Archer, Louisa Street, Anthony Gibbons, Don Riddell, Jim Wilson, Jean-Paul Morice, Don Jones, Andrew Winwood, and Scott Freeman. Absent: James Hattam.
Seated: Minister Guy Barnett and TGC Chairman Greg Hall.
DPIPWE Wildlife Regulations Review Project

DPIPWE is reviewing the regulations that govern deer farming, the hunting of wildlife (including game) and the taking of wildlife for crop protection purposes.

Made under the Nature Conservation Act 2002, the three statutory regulations that provide for controls around the taking and trading in wildlife and wildlife products, hunting, wildlife exhibition and display and deer farming are:

• Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010.
• Wildlife (Exhibited Animals) Regulations 2010.
• Wildlife (Deer Farming) Regulations 2010.

The review represents an important opportunity for DPIPWE and the public to examine how the current regulations are working and explore options for any improvements, so that they can work more effectively and efficiently.

In 2019, DPIPWE worked closely with stakeholders from agriculture, forestry, game hunting and other advocacy groups to seek their feedback, examine existing practices for regulatory consistency, and to identify improvements to the regulations. This feedback is being used to prepare a new draft of the Wildlife Regulations.

The revised draft of the Wildlife Regulations is expected to be released in 2020 for public comment. Public submissions will be considered in finalising the Regulations.

For further information on the DPIPWE Wildlife Regulations Review Project, please visit dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Wildlife-Regulations-Review

Hunting on Public Land

Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania

Hunting is limited to some selected reserved land and hunters should contact the nearest Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) office to discuss prior to undertaking any hunting activities on land managed by the PWS. Depending on the tenure of the land, hunters will require further permits or authorities in addition to a firearms licence to allow them to hunt wildlife.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) Management Plan 2016 provides details for the hunting of designated game species in the defined areas within the TWWHA and can be found online at dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/TWWHA_Management_Plan_2016.pdf

Public Land Deer Hunting Ballot

In 2020 a ballot for accessing land managed by PWS and Hydro Tasmania will again take place to give hunters the opportunity to hunt deer on designated areas of public land during the deer hunting seasons.

This ballot allows controlled access for hunters to reserved and public land. It aims to reduce the impact of deer on the environment, while providing an opportunity for hunters.

Areas of public land to be made available for the 2020 public land deer hunting ballot include:

• Great Western Tiers Conservation Area.
• Top Marshes Conservation Area.
• Five Mile Pinnacles Conservation Area.
• Central Plateau Conservation Area: Breton Rivulet block (PWS) and Mother Lord Plains block (Hydro).
• Great Western Tiers Conservation Area: Parson & Clerk Mountain Block (PWS).
Hunting on Public Land

- Great Lake Conservation Area, Tumbledown Creek block (PWS) and land known as Gunns Marsh surrounding Gunns Lake and Little Lake (Hydro).

New additional areas of public land available for the 2020 public land deer hunting ballot include:
- Castle Cary Regional Reserve (PWS).
- St Pauls Regional Reserve (PWS).
- Tooms Lake Conservation Area (PWS).
- Buxton River Conservation Area (PWS).

Ballot Information:
- Applications will be accepted electronically (on-line only) via dpipwe.tas.gov.au/DeerBallot.
- Successful applicants were notified by email by early February.
- Successful ballot applicants will be permitted to hunt for a week from Wednesday to Tuesday inclusive.
- Further details of the deer ballot can be found online at dpipwe.tas.gov.au/DeerBallot.

Duck Hunting

Licenced duck hunting is permitted during the gazetted season on various Reserves. At the beginning of each gazetted season DPIPWE releases a Public Notice detailing the Reserves available for duck hunting.

Further details can be found online at dpipwe.tas.gov.au/gamespecies.

Hydro Tasmania Land

Subject to complying with Hydro Tasmania’s conditions, individuals are permitted to hunt ducks on designated land, lakes or waterways without needing to seek permission from Hydro Tasmania.

Designated areas:
- Cowpaddock Bay, Arthurs Lake,
- Lake Binney,
- Lake Burbury,
- Lake Catagunya, and
- Lake King William.

To be permitted to hunt ducks on Hydro Tasmania land ensure you:
- Have a valid Firearms Licence, Game Licence and you must comply with the provisions of the Firearms Act 1996.
- Adopt safe shooting practices and abide by all directional signs and lawful instructions given by any authorised persons.
- Hold Public Liability Insurance (supplied as part of your membership with a hunting association) and carry evidence with you at all times.
- Understand that vehicle access is restricted to existing tracks only, and
- Cause no environmental harm or damage. If damage is caused, it must be reported to Hydro Tasmania, who may require that it be cleaned up and reinstated to its satisfaction and at your own expense.

Further details and maps can be found online at hydro.com.au/things-to-do/visitor-information-and-safety.

Hydro Tasmania

Any person carrying a firearm or hunting on Hydro Tasmania land or lakes, requires permission from Hydro Tasmania.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT)

Some areas of the Permanent Timber Production Zone land (PTPZ) managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) are available for hunting.

STT Deer Ballot


Further details on the Big Den State Forest Ballot and hunting on STT managed land can be found online at sttas.com.au/using-our-forests/hunting.
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Fallow Deer

Five Year Crop Protection Permits (CPPs) and Game Season for Antlerless Fallow Deer

FOR LAND OWNERS

Antlerless Deer
• CPPs for antlerless deer will be issued for five years;
• Antlerless deer can be taken using a CPP from 15 March to 15 November inclusive;
• No tags required;
• No quota;
• Annual take return is required;
• Your responsibility to manage hunters and provide an annual take return for your permit;
• Must carry permit when taking deer under a CPP.

Adult Male Deer
• CPPs issued yearly;
• Quota and tag requirements still apply;
• Must carry permit when taking deer under a CPP.

FOR HUNTERS

Antlerless Deer
• Antlerless deer season, 15 March to 15 November inclusive;
• No tags required;
• No quota;
• Annual take return is required;
• DO NOT include deer taken under a CPP as part of your Game Licence take return;
• Must hold a current deer licence to take deer during the gazetted seasons or under a CPP;
• Must carry agent permit and deer licence when taking deer under a CPP.

Adult Male Deer
• One male deer can be taken during the gazetted open season;
• Requirement to tag male deer taken during the gazette open season;
• Must hold a current deer licence to take deer during the gazetted seasons or under a CPP;
• Must carry agent permit and deer licence when taking deer under a CPP.

Monitoring will be undertaken to determine the impacts of these changes on the wild deer population so as to maintain a sustainable deer hunting resource without compromising agriculture, forestry and conservation outcomes.

It should be appreciated that the above conditions may change in response to the results of monitoring the wild deer population.

Game Season Bag Limit
• One adult male deer;
• No take limit, or requirement for tags for antlerless deer;
• Spikies may not be taken.

Regulation Snapshot
• Deer may only be taken using a firearm with a minimum calibre of not less than 6 mm, which is capable of delivering a projectile having kinetic energy of 1,350 J at a distance of 100 m from the rifle. It is recommended that a calibre of .243 or greater be used.
• The use of dogs and spotlights are not permitted when taking deer.
• The head of a deer must not be removed or the body severed at a location other than the usual residence of the Game

![Figure 2. How to fix and lock a tag.](image)
Fallow Deer

**Figure 2.** How to fix and lock a tag.

During 2019 a total of 5,162 Fallow deer licences were sold, allowing up to 15,486 deer to be taken.

A total of 6,890 deer, comprising 1,943 adult male and 4,947 antlerless deer were reported taken during the 2019 season (Figure 3). In 2019 there was a 2% increase in licence sales, and a 2% increase in the harvest of adult male, and a 6% increase in harvest of antlerless deer. Overall 44% of allowable deer were harvested.

**2019 Season Report**

In 2019 a total of 5162 fallow deer licences were sold, allowing up to 15,486 deer to be taken.

A total of 6,890 deer, comprising 1,943 adult male and 4,947 antlerless deer were reported taken during the 2019 season (Figure 3). In 2019 there was a 2% increase in licence sales, and a 2% increase in the harvest of adult male, and a 6% increase in harvest of antlerless deer. Overall 44% of allowable deer were harvested.

**Crop Protection Permits**

The number of deer permitted to be taken under Crop Protection Permits remained at historically high levels of 33,654, which comprised 20,477 antlerless and 13,177 male deer (Figure 4).

Based on the returns data from previous years, it is expected that approximately seventy-three percent of the permitted take quota will be used.

**Deer Season Buck Permits**

Permits to take bucks during the 2020 male deer Season will be made available to landholders upon request, to manage herd quality and provide crop protection. The permits allow landholders and their agents to take adult male deer during daylight hours only.
Contemporary Statement of Quality Deer Management

Quality Deer Management (QDM) has a long standing history and tradition among Tasmanian deer hunters and landholders. Following considerable consultation with the Tasmanian Game Council, stakeholders and Wildlife Biologist Brian Murphy during his recent visit to Tasmania, Minister Barnett released an updated statement on Quality Deer Management (QDM) that takes into account the major changes that have occurred across rural Tasmania in recent years. The QDM statement can be found at dpipwe.tas.gov.au.

The contemporised core principles of QDM are:

- Farmers, foresters, conservationists, game hunters and government engaging with each other and working collaboratively towards mutually beneficial and agreed outcomes of game, and browsing animal management.
- Voluntary restraint in the harvesting of younger antlered males (2.5 and 3.5 year olds).
- Emphasis on harvesting female (or antlerless) deer.
- Reducing and managing the overall deer population, aiming for appropriate sex ratios, whilst increasing deer herd quality, the hunting experience, protection of primary industry and environmental assets.

Benefits of QDM are:

- Reduction of deer density by increased antlerless harvest.
- Increased body weight, antler size and reproduction rates.
- More defined breeding season.
- Tighter fawning period.
- More balanced sex ratio.
- Healthier deer herd.
- Deer as a resource encourage hunters to control other browsing wildlife.
- Alleviated browsing pressure from deer.

Contemporary principles have a stronger emphasis on landholders and hunters working together for mutual benefit on agreed outcomes in relation to browsing animal management.

If you would like to learn more about QDM please contact Game Services Tasmania.

Property Based Game Management

Traditionally, communication of a QDM strategy was delivered in the form of a Property Based Game Management Plan (PBGMP). These plans are a communication mechanism between landowners, their employees, contract shooters and game hunters. The plans detail QDM outcomes, access restrictions to the property, hunting requirements such as signing in and out of the property, requirements to record the number of animals harvested, the animals able to be harvested, and other factors such as wood cutting, fishing and use of motor bikes.

Development of PBGMPs has traditionally been facilitated by GST (previously Game Management Unit) working with property owners and hunting group managers. Selected properties still utilise PBGMPs as an agreement between land owners and hunters. These plans are important stakeholder engagement tools, but they must be owned by the relevant parties and updated as circumstances change.

GST staff are available to provide advice on developing and updating PBGMPs.
FALLOW DEER
Reporting your take, but no double takes

GAME LICENCE

IF TAKEN
a. under a deer licence
b. during the deer season
c. during daylight hours

REPORT TO
DPIPWE

CROP PROTECTION PERMIT

IF TAKEN
a. from near or from a vehicle
b. during prohibited hours (night time)
c. with the aid of a spotlight
d. exempt from a Game Licence*

REPORT TO
LAND OWNER

LAND OWNER If requested

* If you are a member of the land owner, lessee or manager’s immediate family household or an employee or contractor employed for duties including browsing wildlife control.

Photograph Mike Stevens

Game Services Tasmania
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Tasmanian Government
This is NOT your ‘Returns Form’ which is sent from DPIPWE - This is for your records only.

Name ___________________________ Licence Number ___________________________

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Game Licence antleress fallow deer

*only: All hunters must still complete their annual return sent to them by DPIPWE*

NOT to include deer taken at night with a Crop Protection Permit. For deer taken during daylight hours only.

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# Game Changes

**From March 2020**

## FOR LAND OWNERS

### Antlerless Deer
- CPPs for antlerless deer will be issued for five years;
- Antlerless deer can be taken using a CPP from 15 March to 15 November inclusive;
- No tags required;
- No quota;
- Annual take return is required;
- Your responsibility to manage hunters and provide an annual take return for your permit;
- Must carry permit when taking deer under a CPP.

### Male Deer
- CPPs issued yearly;
- Quota and tag requirements still apply;
- Must carry permit when taking deer under a CPP.

## FOR HUNTERS

### Antlerless Deer
- Antlerless deer season, 15 March to 15 November inclusive;
- No tags required;
- No quota;
- Annual take return is required;
- DO NOT include deer taken under a CPP as part of your game licence take return;
- Must hold a current deer licence to take deer during the gazetted seasons or under a CPP;
- Must carry agent permit and deer licence when taking deer under a CPP.

### Male Deer
- One male deer can be taken during the gazetted open season;
- Requirement to tag male deer taken during the gazetted season;
- Must hold a current deer licence to take deer during the gazetted seasons or under a CPP;
- Must carry agent permit and deer licence when taking deer under a CPP.

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**NOTE:** A deer licence is required to take deer using a CPP unless you are a member of the landowner, lessee or manager’s immediate family household or an employee or contractor employed for duties including browsing wildlife control.

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CPP = Crop Protection Permit
Deer Census

In its response to the 2016 Legislative Council Inquiry on Wild Fallow Deer in Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government committed to undertaking a comprehensive state-wide census of wild fallow deer. The results of this census will be used to inform future management of deer in Tasmania.

Three different methods are being used in the census to estimate wild fallow deer abundance and geographic distribution. An aerial survey has been conducted to estimate deer numbers within areas identified as supporting medium to high abundances of deer. The camera trap methodology will be used in areas identified as supporting medium to low populations of deer. Citizen science through the DeerScan Application will be used to generate data on deer presence throughout the state, this method will have a particular emphasis on areas where the deer population is currently expected to be very low or not known to be present.

Figure 5. EcoKnowledge’s Michael Stead showing Game Services Tasmania Wildlife Management Officer Ellen Freeman the process of recording fallow deer and Forester kangaroo on the control panel strapped to his knee.

18a Marlborough St, Longford TAS 7301
Phone: 03 6371 2175 or 0466 620 177 e: webbshuntingandfishing@gmail.com
Fallow Deer Research

Aerial Survey

In September and October 2019, following a national tender process run by GST, EcoKnowledge conducted an aerial survey to estimate abundance and geographical distribution of wild fallow deer and Forester kangaroos across eastern Tasmania. The survey was conducted from a helicopter using both visual observation and thermal imaging. Wildlife Management Officer, Ellen Freeman, participated in the survey to gain hands-on practical experience and understanding of this surveying method. Both methods proved to be successful in detecting deer and kangaroos. EcoKnowledge is currently analysing the data collected, and a final report on the survey is planned for release by mid-2020.

If you would like further information please see dpipwe.tas.gov.au/deer-survey or contact GST.

DeerScan

In early 2020 GST will be promoting the use of DeerScan, targeting National Parks users, bush walkers, road users and peri-urban residents to record sightings, signs and control of wild deer. DeerScan is a free to download application for smart phone devices, also accessible online via a webpage. The information uploaded to DeerScan is not made available to the public due to security and privacy considerations. This data will help inform GST about peri-urban and deer populations in non-traditional areas. GST will monitor and use this data as a part of the state-wide census of wild fallow deer, informing of fallow deer distribution in Tasmania. If you would like to learn more about DeerScan please see the DeerScan website feralscan.org.au/deerscan/ or contact GST or visit the website dpipwe.tas.gov.au/ agriculture/game-services-tasmania.

Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant

The University of Tasmania in partnership with the DPIPWE, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Bush Heritage Australia and the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries have received an ARC Linkage grant to investigate the impacts of fallow deer on native vegetation and how those impacts interact with fire. The project also aims to analyse the current distribution of deer in Tasmania and to characterise their habitat preferences, which can then be used to determine the potential of further expansion and distribution of deer in Tasmania. This information will be used to develop effective management options for preventing the establishment of deer in sensitive environments and reducing their impacts where they currently occur.

The project commenced in 2019 and is expected to be completed in 2021. Field work has commenced with a number of vegetation monitoring sites established in the Midlands and on the Central Plateau. At each monitoring site, exclosures have been established to exclude: (i) deer and other large herbivores, and (ii) deer only. Control (non-exclosure) plots will be established.

Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee

‘Supporting quality deer management and property based game management.’
C/- PO Box 2079, Spreyton TAS 7310
Enquiries: 0413 999 279 Email: acca.winwood@bigpond.com
Analysis is underway of existing data on deer distribution and population trends, from DPIPWE’s state-wide spotlight counts and various camera surveys.

Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area monitoring (TWWHA)

DPIPWE is also undertaking wildlife surveys within the TWWHA to monitor the status of TWWHA fauna values and threats to these values. In consultation with land managers of the TWWHA, feral deer were recognised as a priority introduced species to monitor. A pilot survey using remote cameras was recently conducted in Great Western Tiers Conservation Area and the Central Plateau Conservation Area. Tens of thousands of animal images have been collected and are being analysed. This monitoring will complement the deer census by surveying areas where deer are thought to be in low density and difficult to survey by air.

Deer Tracks

Where is the strangest place you have seen deer, their droppings or tracks? Now is your chance to help GST to track down the location of deer in Tasmania.

Rufous Wallaby (Tasmanian Pademelon) and Bennett’s Wallaby

Hunters who hold a Wallaby Licence may hunt rufous and Bennett’s wallaby during the wallaby hunting season, including on King and Flinders Islands.

There is no bag limit for either of these wallaby species, although records should be kept for Licence and Crop Protection purposes returns purposes.

A Commercial Wallaby Hunters Licence is required to allow for the sale of wallaby products.

Regulation Snapshot

The use of snares or leg-hold traps is prohibited.

The use of spotlights or shooting from a vehicle is prohibited without a permit. A landholder may obtain a Crop Protection Permit to allow shooting from a vehicle with the aid of a spotlight.

GST is currently conducting a State-wide census of the abundance and geographic distribution of deer. Those members of the public who spend a lot of time ‘out there’ are encouraged to report any sightings of deer to GST. Sightings can be reported through the use of DeerScan or by contacting a GST.

DeerScan can be accessed at feralscan.org.au/deerscan/. Reporting can be made online or on the free to download smart phone app. Any sightings recorded on DeerScan are not made publicly available.

Deer are moving into non-traditional areas of the state. By reporting your sightings of deer, especially in odd places, you will contribute to the state-wide census allowing better informed management decisions. Sightings information and informed management can alleviate deer vehicle collisions, protect conservation values and primary production.

If anyone has any information on deer populations in non-traditional areas or would like to learn more about managing deer please contact GST.
**1080 Poison**

A landholder may issue a copy of their permit to hunters who hold a Wallaby Licence to enable them to assist in the control of wallaby. Any adult female wallaby taken must be examined for pouch young, which should be humanely killed upon discovery.

**2019 Season Report**

During the 2019 Wallaby Season there were 7,396 wallaby licence holders as at September 2019. These licences are current until 23 February 2020. There has been a steady decline in the number of wallaby licence holders from a peak in 2017 (Figure 1).

**Crop Protection Permits to Take Wallaby**

From 2016 to October 2019 a total of 3,041 Crop Protection Permits have been issued to landholders authorising take of Bennett’s and rufous wallabies for a five year period. Of these permits, as at October, 319 were issued in 2019.

DPIPWE continues to conduct spotlight surveys of wallabies between November and February each year to monitor population trends to ensure the sustainability of the take. Recent surveys indicate that wallaby numbers are not in decline.

**1080 Poison Use**

Browsing by wallabies and possums can cause damage to crops, pastures and native vegetation resulting in major financial loss. The Government has maintained access to 1080 poison for landholders as part of an integrated tools package to manage browsing damage along with alternatives such as fencing and shooting.


The total use of 1080 poison across Tasmania for the 2018/19 financial year was 1.13 kg with 23 permits issued for poisoning operations. This is a similar amount to that used in recent years, with annual use remaining well below the 15.2 kg used in 1999-2000 (Figure 7).

In order to be granted a permit to use 1080 a landholder must meet the following criteria:

- There is an unacceptable risk to a crop or pasture;
- The use of 1080 does not pose an unacceptable risk to a population of non-target species, and;
- Alternative control measures have been considered and implemented as far as practicable and judged to be ineffective.

Applications will only be approved and permits only issued where there is a genuine need and alternatives are not physically or economically effective.

GST provides landholders with assistance in the development of browsing animal management strategies for their specific properties and circumstances.

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Figure 7: The use of 1080 poison in Tasmania from 1999 to 2019. Based on preliminary data as at October 2019.
Wild Duck

Wild Duck - Bag Limit

The bag limit for wild duck is 10 duck per licensed hunter per day.

Legal Species

Game species that may be taken in Tasmania:
- Black duck,
- Grey teal,
- Chestnut teal,
- Mountain duck, and
- Wood duck.

Non-game species that may NOT be taken in Tasmania:
- Bluewinged shoveler,
- Hardhead (or whiteeyed) duck,
- Musk duck,
- Freckled duck,
- Pink-eared duck,
- Blue-billed duck, and
- Plumed tree duck.

Regulation Snapshot

- Decoys, including feathered decoys, are permitted when taking ducks in Tasmania.
- The use of any bait, live birds, tape recorders or other electronic devices is prohibited.
- The use of a boat propelled by an engine is prohibited when taking ducks.
- The use of aircraft for rousing ducks is prohibited.
- Ducks may only be taken with a shotgun not greater than 12 gauge.

- Duck hunters are not permitted to use lead shot when hunting over wetlands, lakes, dams, harbours, estuaries, lagoons, rivers, creeks, canals or other watercourses, whether on public or private property.
- Hunters must retain either the head or the wings on all harvested ducks until the hunter has arrived at their normal place of residence, shack or camp.
- Hunters must have successfully completed the Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT) in order to obtain a licence to hunt wild duck. They must produce the WIT Certificate the first time they purchase a duck licence.

2019 Season Report

A total of 1,134 Duck Hunting Licences were sold for the 2019 season, similar to that sold each year since 2014 (Table 1).

Preliminary figures show hunters reported taking 33,684 ducks over the three month open season, which is an average of 44 birds per hunter. This is similar to the average take in recent years.

Based on this, it is estimated that approximately 49,671 duck were taken in 2019, similar to the harvest in recent years.

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<td>1,100</td>
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<td>1,158</td>
<td>1,178</td>
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<td>Take per Licence Return</td>
<td>50.5</td>
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<td>Total Estimated Take</td>
<td>48,837</td>
<td>58,991</td>
<td>50,529</td>
<td>45,603</td>
<td>57,068</td>
<td>55,884</td>
<td>49,671</td>
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Table 1: Wild Duck Hunting Licences issued and reported take from 2013-19. Based on preliminary data as at October 2019.
The 2019 duck harvest was similar to that of recent years (Figure 8). Black duck continues to make up the largest proportion of the harvest at 40 per cent. Mountain duck was the least frequently taken species at 10 per cent.

The proportion of grey teal taken remains high. This may be in response to an influx of birds from mainland Australia due to the extremely dry conditions across much of eastern Australia. The abundance of grey teal in Tasmania can vary considerably from year to year in response to climatic conditions here and on the mainland that cause birds to move across Bass Strait.

The geographic distribution of the wild duck harvest across the State has remained consistent over recent seasons (Figure 9). The North East and Central Plateau regions remain the areas from which the majority of ducks were taken. Moulting Lagoon, North West, and South East have maintained a similar proportion of the overall harvest. Harvest on the Furneaux Islands declined in 2019.
Wild Duck Research

UTas Plastic Toxicity

Angela Hansen, PhD researcher from the University of Tasmania, investigated plastic pollution ingestion and impacts on waterfowl in Tasmania and Victoria. Angela used Tasmanian samples from 2017 and 2018 duck seasons, and Victorian samples from the 2019 duck season. No plastic ingestion was found in any ducks shot by hunters. Very low amounts of ingested metal shot was found. Environmental water and debris samples collected from Moulting Lagoon had little evidence of plastic or other man-made debris. Shoreline surveys found low levels of man-made debris. Shoreline debris found was primarily from hunting and vineyard activities. This is good news for ducks and hunters. The next step in this project is to continue trace element analysis for lead and other metal levels in duck tissues.

Thank you to all the hunters who provided duck samples and information about duck hunting history and practices to Angela for her PhD.

Avian Influenza Survey Program

DPIPWE has again been involved in the National Wild Birds Avian Influenza Surveillance Program, which aims to help prevent outbreaks of Avian Influenza in Australia. Particular strains of Avian Influenza virus can sometimes cause infectious disease in domestic poultry and may cause disease in a range of other species including wild birds and humans. Each year, each State undertakes a survey of wild birds with a focus on wild duck populations that may come in contact with migratory shorebirds. Faecal and cloacal samples are collected and analysed for the presence of viruses that may be a problem if transferred to domestic poultry or humans. In Tasmania, faecal samples from wild ducks are collected from wetland sites, targeting sites near poultry production areas, which are then analysed at Mt Pleasant laboratory for the presence of the Avian Influenza virus.

In 2019, 602 samples were collected. 378 were fresh samples collected between February and August from three sites in Southern Tasmania. Species included Pacific black duck and hybrids. Tasmanian native hens and Eurasian coots also frequented the sites sampled.

In 2019, duck hunters assisted with the survey by collecting 224 intestines from wild mountain duck, black duck, wood duck and Teal. There were no positive samples from the environmental pool. A single grey teal from the East Coast collected by a hunter tested positive to Avian Influenza. Further analysis determined it be a strain of Avian Influenza that does not cause widespread disease in wild birds, poultry or humans.

This survey is important in gaining a better understanding of which strains of Avian Influenza virus are circulating in wild birds. Thank you to everyone who assisted with sample collection. The success of this program is in a large part due to your help. This program will continue again for the 2020 duck season. Researchers are grateful for the contribution duck hunters make to this program and hope your assistance in collecting samples continues.
During an open season for muttonbirds:
- A bag limit of 25 muttonbirds per day applies on colonies in Bass Strait.
- A bag limit of 15 muttonbirds per day applies on Tasmanian mainland colonies.

### 2020 Season

Each year, following the breeding season, muttonbirds leave their Tasmanian breeding colonies on their annual migration to feed in the waters of the North Pacific, returning to their Tasmanian breeding colonies in late September.

In 2019, reports were received of unusually large numbers of muttonbirds being found dead from starvation in the North Pacific off Alaska. Early reports from Tasmanian breeding colonies also suggested that the annual migration was delayed and that they had returned in lower than usual numbers.

While of concern, it is still too early to determine the effect of this delay on the 2020 season. DPIPWE staff undertook surveys of breeding effort and population in December 2019. Results of the survey will form the basis for a decision on whether or not there will be an open season in 2020, with the aim of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the harvest.

The list of muttonbird colonies open for harvest in 2020 is available by contacting NCH or the DPIPWE website: dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Requirements

### Regulation Snapshot

- Night-birding is prohibited (‘night’ is between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise).
- The use of pointed, sharpened, barbed, hook shaped or sharpened implements is prohibited.
- The use of dogs is prohibited.
- Interfering with a muttonbird or a muttonbird burrow during the closed season or without a licence during the open season is prohibited.
- A Game Licence is issued to one person only. The taking of muttonbirds under another person’s licence (including that of a family member) is not permitted.
- Chicks are to be killed quickly and humanely in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1993 as described in the Short-tailed shearwater (muttonbird) Hunting Season and Colony Information sheet on the DPIPWE Website: dpipwe.tas.gov.au/GameSpecies

### 2019 Season Report

The 2019 non-commercial muttonbird season was open for 16 days from 30 March to 14 April 2019.

Annual pre-season monitoring of muttonbird colonies in the Furneaux Group and South Eastern Tasmania found an increase in the number of breeding adults. However, increased chick mortality resulted in a decline in chick numbers compared to the previous season. Chick numbers remained within acceptable levels for harvesting to proceed.

A total of 728 non-commercial Muttonbird Licences were sold for the 2019 season, the lowest number sold since 2014 (Table 2).

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<td>Licences Sold</td>
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<td>846</td>
<td>865</td>
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<td>Reported Take</td>
<td>44 036</td>
<td>10 913</td>
<td>33 571</td>
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<td>28 168</td>
<td>26 284</td>
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<td>55 000</td>
<td>52 000</td>
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Table 2: Muttonbird Licences issued and reported take from 2013-19. Based on preliminary data as at October 2019.
Common Pheasant

Preliminary figures show muttonbird harvesters reported taking 21,270 birds over the open season which is an average of 54 birds per harvester.

Based on this, it is estimated that approximately 39,000 birds were taken in 2019, a considerable decline compared with the average take in recent years.

The geographic distribution of the muttonbird harvest across the State has remained consistent over recent seasons (Figure 10). The Hunter Group and Furneaux Group remained the highest areas for muttonbirding in 2019, with 36 per cent and 35 per cent of the harvest occurring there respectively. King Island contributed 21 percent of the harvest, and the West Coast 6 percent of the harvest.

Figure 10: Reported muttonbird harvest by region for 2019. Based on preliminary data as at October 2019.

2019 Season Report

During 2019 there were 125 licenced pheasant hunters for hunting on King Island. 198 pheasants had been reported as taken during the 2019 season. Licences issued and take for 2019 increased from the previous season and were the highest recorded since 2013 (Figure 12). Feedback from hunters, landowners and local residents reported that cock bird numbers were high.

Figure 11: Pheasant licences issued and returns received from 2013 to 2019. Based on preliminary data as at October 2019.

Common Pheasant

Bag Limit

The bag limit for common pheasant is 3 adult male birds per licenced hunter per day.

2020 Season

Hunters are:

- Encouraged to become a member of the King Island Game Bird Association; and
- Ensure they have permission to access land for hunting.

For general enquiries regarding pheasant hunting on King Island, please contact the King Island Game Bird Association or Game Services Tasmania.

Regulation Snapshot

The open season applies only to male birds on King Island. Pheasants may only be taken with a shotgun not greater than 12 gauge.
Bag Limit

The bag limit for brown quail is 20 birds per licensed hunter per day.

Regulation Snapshot

Only brown quail may be taken. Other quail species, such as stubble quail and painted quail are protected and may not be taken. Brown quail may only be taken with a shotgun not greater than 12 gauge.

2019 Season Report

In 2019 there were 216 brown quail licence holders. Despite a decline in number of licence holders compared to 2018, harvest numbers remained within the range of recent years. The take per licence return of 45 birds per hunter was slightly down from 2018 but still within the range seen since 2013 (Table 3).

The Furneaux Group was again the most productive quail hunting region in 2019, with 56% of the total reported harvest being taken there (Figure 12). There was no reported harvest on King Island. On mainland Tasmania, the North East saw the largest harvest making up 17.6% of the total reported harvest.

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<td>Licences Sold</td>
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<td>253</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>208</td>
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<td>Reported Harvest</td>
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<td>6325</td>
<td>6747</td>
<td>4296</td>
<td>6218</td>
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<td>Birds per Licence Return</td>
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<td>42.2</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>42.6</td>
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<td>Estimated Total Harvest</td>
<td>8217</td>
<td>10668</td>
<td>10223</td>
<td>6509</td>
<td>8858</td>
<td>11587</td>
<td>9774</td>
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</table>

Table 3: Brown quail Licences issued and reported take from 2013 to 2019. Based on preliminary data as at October 2019.

Figure 12: State wide reported quail harvest by region for 2018 and 2019. Based on preliminary data as at October 2019.
Wallaby Management

Since the Mid 1990s populations of Bennett’s and Rufous wallaby have dominated the King Island landscape, impacting native vegetation and agricultural pastures. A GST Wildlife Management Officer was appointed to provide community and land holder engagement and education, as well as develop control measures and programs to assist in the reduction of the wallaby population, with the aim of minimising wildlife browsing pressures.

In 2013 there were four active wallaby Crop Protection Permits (CPPs) on the island, now in 2019 there are 80. There are 34 properties with browsing wildlife shooting (crop protection) programs in place, with some landholders paying shooters to manage wallabies on a consistent basis. Wallaby take numbers have decreased by 40 per cent since 2013 with 84,178 harvested in the 2013/2014 financial year to 51,000 in the 2018/2019 financial year (Figure 13). 25 properties have erected over 270 km of wallaby proof fencing. Most properties have found the 11-90-15 fabricated fence with the footer attached to be the most useful and cost effective.

Monitoring has shown that the combination of fencing and shooting gives the greatest relief from browsing wildlife. Wallaby densities can be reduced down to 1.4 wallaby per hectare, compared to properties with no management, which are carrying up to 21 wallabies per hectare. For example, a property with a management program in place consisting of shooting, fencing and a targeted fertiliser program increased its stocking rate of 650 breeding cattle to 1,150, giving it a 75 per cent production rise in 3 years.

For more information please contact Game Services Tasmania.

Fallow Deer

Fallow deer were introduced to King Island in 1997 for a deer farming operation. In 2007 deer escaped from the farm. Whilst the deer population is thought to be relatively low it is widespread throughout the island. DPIPWE issues permits to allow landholders and hunters to more effectively manage deer on the island. Deer management aims to reduce numbers, thereby protecting King Island’s pastoral industries and the natural environment.

Spotlight shooting from a vehicle, along with stalking, have been the most common forms of management. Trail camera monitoring, feed stations and shooting have been utilised by DPIPWE staff on the island to locate deer and monitor numbers. In the near future tracking collars may be used to gain a better understanding of numbers and distribution to allow for better management options. Landholders allowing hunter access to their properties have helped control deer numbers. Trust between the landholders and hunters is growing across the island. The above deer management strategies have been accepted and embraced by most of the King Island community.

Figure 13. The number of Bennett’s and Rufous wallabies harvested on King Island per financial year from 2012 to 2019.
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101 Invermay Road, Launceston (03) 6331 7090
www.sportshut.com.au sales@sportshut.com.au
Wildlife Related Offences - at 29 November 2019

BARKER Cardi Robert: CONARA, Take partly protected wildlife without licence or permit, Possess products of wildlife taken contrary to regulations (Fallow deer), Discharge firearm in or within 10 metres of a vehicle to take wildlife, Use firearm at night for the purpose of taking wildlife. Penalty $1000. No conviction recorded.

BARR Christopher Robert: LOWER MARSHES, Possess an unregistered firearm, Possess silencer, Possess shortened firearm, Fail to comply with prescribed storage of firearms and ammunition, Fail to take all precautions to ensure safe keeping of firearms. Penalty $850, forfeiture of firearm and silencer, 12 month community correction order. No conviction recorded.

BARR Taylor Kingsley: DODGES FERRY, Possess the products of wildlife taken contrary to regulations (Fallow deer). Penalty $1288. Conviction recorded.


BYERS Peter Bruce: CAMPBELL TOWN, Possess and use lead shot, Discharge lead shot onto or over watercourse, Possess products of wildlife taken contrary to regulations, Take partly protected wildlife (wild duck), Handle firearm whilst under the influence of alcohol. Penalty $1500 and firearm forfeiture. Conviction recorded.

COWEN Jeremiah John Charles: PELVERATA, Use weapon (bow and arrow) to take partly protected wildlife (wallaby) without authority or permit. Penalty $636 and hunting equipment forfeiture. Conviction recorded.

COWEN John Nicholas: CAMPANIA, Take partly protected wildlife without licence or permit (Bennett’s wallaby). Penalty $652. Conviction recorded.

GLOVER Matthew Ian: TRANMERE, Possess ammunition when not the holder of an appropriate firearm licence. Penalty $300. Conviction recorded.

HALLAM Ashley David: SWANSEA, Possess ammunition when not the holder of an appropriate firearm licence, Possess protected wildlife without a permit (Black Swan), Possess wildlife taken contrary to regulations (Fallow deer), Affix a prescribed tag to a deer with a tag issued to another person, Unlawful possession of property. Penalty $1000. Conviction recorded.

HARRISON Bradley James: BRIDGEWATER, Take partly protected wildlife other than open season, Possess the products of wildlife taken contrary to regulations (Fallow deer). Penalty $1908 and firearm forfeiture. Conviction recorded.


HAY Michael Farrell: SWANSEA, Possess a firearm when not the holder of a firearm licence of the appropriate category, Possess unregistered firearms, Fail to comply with prescribed storage of firearms and ammunition. Penalty $1000. Conviction recorded.

KINGSTON Barry Lyle: SOMERSET, Aggravated cruelty to animals (Brown Bandicoot). Penalty 21 days imprisonment wholly suspended on good behaviour for 18 months. Conviction recorded.

LONGSTAFF Adrian David: CONARA, Trespass on land in possession of a firearm. Penalty $1304 and firearm forfeiture. Conviction recorded.

LOWE Logan Jake: RAVENSWOOD, Possess products of wildlife taken contrary to regulations (Brushtail possum), set a snare. Penalty $978. Conviction recorded.

MCDONALD Christopher John: BRIDGEWATER, Take partly protected wildlife other than open season, Possess the products of wildlife taken contrary to regulations (Fallow deer). Penalty $3784. Conviction recorded.

MCDONALD James Bradley: BRIDGEWATER, Evade police, Reckless driving, Fail to comply with prescribed storage of firearms and ammunition, Possess products of wildlife taken contrary to regulations (Fallow deer). Penalty $8260. Conviction recorded.

MONKS Joshua Hilton: WATTLE HILL, Take partly protected wildlife other than open season, Possess the products of wildlife taken contrary to regulations (Fallow deer). Penalty $3212. Conviction recorded.

MOORE Frank: ARTHURS LAKE, Fail to comply with prescribed storage of firearms and ammunition, Possess ammunition when not the holder of an appropriate licence. Penalty $1000. Conviction recorded.
Offender File

**ORR Brodie**: BOTHWELL, **Fail to comply with prescribed storage of firearms and ammunition, Take partly protected wildlife (Bennett’s wallaby).** **Penalty $900 and firearm forfeiture. Conviction recorded.**

**ORR Brodie**: BOTHWELL, **Convey a firearm and ammunition contrary to the prescribed safety requirements.** **Penalty $250. Conviction recorded.**

**PARKER Adam**: SUMMERHILL, **Possess loaded firearm in a vehicle in a public place, Convey a firearm and ammunition contrary to the prescribed safety requirements.** **Penalty $350. Conviction recorded.**

**PICKETT Alex James**: CLAREMONT, **Take protected wildlife without permit (Blotched blue-tongue Skink and Mountain Dragons).** **Penalty $400. Conviction recorded.**

**ROLLINS Trent Anthony**: ALLENS RIVULET, **Trespass on land in possession of a firearm.** **Penalty $300. Conviction recorded.**

**ROUND Jesse Nicholas**: CLAREMONT, **Possess a firearm when not the holder of a firearms licence of the appropriate category, Handle a firearm whilst under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, Take partly protected wildlife without licence or permit, Use firearm at night for the purpose of taking partly protected wildlife (Brushtail possum), Do an act resulting in the death, deformity or serious disablement of an animal.** **Penalty $1200. Conviction recorded.**

**UPTON James David**: BERRIEDALE, **Possess loaded firearm in a vehicle in a public place.** **Penalty $1200 and firearm forfeiture. Conviction recorded.**

**WEBB Bradley Thomas Geoffrey**: CLAREMONT, **Take protected wildlife without a permit (Copperhead Snakes).** **Penalty $636. Conviction recorded.**

**WILSON Jayden**: TRIABUNNA, **Possess loaded firearm in a vehicle in a public place, Convey firearm contrary to prescribed safety requirements.** **Penalty $1000 and firearm forfeiture. Conviction recorded.**

**XIONG Tou My**: GOODWOOD, **Take specially protected wildlife (Wedge-tailed Eagle).** **Penalty $2000 and firearm forfeiture. Conviction recorded.**

**NOTE:** A PERSON CONVICTED OF A RELEVANT OFFENCE IS PRECLUDED FROM OBTAINING A GAME LICENCE OR WILDLIFE PERMIT FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF CONVICTION.

Safe Transport and Use of Firearms

Points to remember when transporting firearms and ammunition:

- All magazines must be unloaded.
- All ammunition must be in a closed container completely separate from the firearm.
- All firearms must be unloaded and must be either:
  - In a locked receptacle; or
  - Have the bolt removed and kept in a closed container, completely separate from the firearm; or
  - Have a trigger/action lock fitted that prevents the firearm from being used.
- There are some exceptions to these requirements as outlined in Section 104(2) of the Firearms Act 1996.

There are many situations where agricultural properties adjoin townships and urban areas or small hobby farms. Often, these properties have Crop Protection Permits authorising the shooting of wildlife. People shooting in these situations are reminded that it is an offence to discharge a firearm within 250m of a dwelling house unless you have permission from the occupier of the dwelling house to do so.

Tasmania has a permanent amnesty for firearms and ammunition so any person can surrender a firearm or ammunition to police or a licenced firearms dealer. Call the Police station or dealer in advance to arrange the surrender. Licence holders are obliged to notify Firearms Services within 7 days of the loss or theft of a firearm.

For further information refer to the Tasmania Police (Firearms Services) website fas.police.tas.gov.au
**Contacts**

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Game Services Tasmania**

Telephone: (03) 6165 3225  
Email: gameservicestas@dpipwe.tas.gov.au  
Web: dpipwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/game-services-tasmania

Launceston Office – Prospect Government Offices (Business hours Monday to Friday)  
165 Westbury Road, PROSPECT TAS 7250  
PO Box 46, KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Robin Thompson</strong></td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>(03) 6777 2157</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Robin.thompson@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">Robin.thompson@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jonathan Knox</strong></td>
<td>Wildlife Management Officer</td>
<td>(03) 6777 2083</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jonathan.Knox@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">Jonathan.Knox@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ellen Freeman</strong></td>
<td>Wildlife Management Officer</td>
<td>(03) 6777 2084</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Ellen.Freeman@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">Ellen.Freeman@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></td>
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Hobart Office – Lands Building (Business hours Monday to Friday)  
Level 3, 134 Macquarie Street, HOBART TAS 7000  
GPO Box 44, HOBART TAS 7001

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greg Hocking</strong></td>
<td>Principal Wildlife Management Officer</td>
<td>(03) 6165 4336</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Greg.Hocking@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">Greg.Hocking@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rebecca Williams</strong></td>
<td>Wildlife Management Officer</td>
<td>(03) 6165 3070</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rebecca.Williams@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">Rebecca.Williams@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></td>
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Devonport Office – Stony Rise Government Offices (Business hours Monday to Friday)  
Rundle Road, STONY RISE

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>David White</strong></td>
<td>Wildlife Management Officer</td>
<td>(03) 6478 4117</td>
<td><a href="mailto:David.White@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">David.White@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></td>
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King Island (Business hours Monday to Wednesday)

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shane Keeler</strong></td>
<td>Wildlife Management Officer</td>
<td>0428 621 017</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Shane.Keeler@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">Shane.Keeler@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></td>
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</table>
Simpson Taxidermy
Campbell Town
Phone: 6381 1309
Natural and Cultural Heritage Division
Level 8, Vodafone Building
59 Liverpool Street, HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 44, HOBART, 7001
Telephone: (03) 6165 4305
Email: wildlife.reception@dpipwe.tas.gov.au
Website: dpipwe.tas.gov.au/wmb

Wildlife Ranger Contact
(Enforcement related matters only - After hours and weekends)
Telephone: 0417 661 234

Useful Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Animal Health Laboratory</strong></th>
<th>Telephone: (03) 6777 2111</th>
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<tr>
<td>DPIPWE</td>
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<th><strong>Crime Stoppers</strong></th>
<th>Telephone: 1800 333 000</th>
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<th><strong>Firearms Enquiries</strong></th>
<th>Telephone: (03) 6173 2720</th>
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<td>Tasmania Police</td>
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<th><strong>Hydro Tasmania</strong></th>
<th>Telephone: (03) 6230 5111</th>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:contactus@hydro.com.au">contactus@hydro.com.au</a></td>
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<th><strong>Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program</strong></th>
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<td>DPIPWE</td>
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<th><strong>Parks and Wildlife Services</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>DPIPWE</td>
<td>Southern Region: (03) 6165 4053</td>
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<td>Northern Region: (03) 6777 2179</td>
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<td>North West Region: (03) 6464 3008</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Public land deer hunting ballot</strong></th>
<th>Email: <a href="mailto:deerballot@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">deerballot@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Game Services Tasmania</td>
<td>Website: dpipwe.tas.gov.au/DeerBallot</td>
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<td>Coordinator: Rebecca Williams</td>
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<th><strong>Save the Tasmanian Devil Hotline</strong></th>
<th>Telephone: 0497 338 457</th>
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<th><strong>Tasmania Fire Service</strong></th>
<th>Telephone: 1800 000 699</th>
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<td>Organisation Contacts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Deer Association</strong></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:president.tas@austdeer.asn.au">president.tas@austdeer.asn.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 388</td>
<td>Website: austdeer.com.au</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROSPECT TAS 7250</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Field and Game Australia</strong></td>
<td>Telephone: (03) 5799 0960</td>
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<tr>
<td>PO Box 464</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:membership@fieldandgame.com.au">membership@fieldandgame.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>SEYMOUR VIC 3660</td>
<td>Website: fieldandgame.com.au</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field Hunting and Conservation Tasmania</strong></td>
<td>Telephone: (03) 6391 1008 or 0428 342 351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>587 Woolmers Lane</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:pjdarke@bigpond.net.au">pjdarke@bigpond.net.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>LONGFORD TAS 7301</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>King Island Game Bird Association</strong></td>
<td>Telephone: 0428 611 254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/- 59 Yarra Creek Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>LYMWOOD TAS 7256</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North West Hound Owners Association</strong></td>
<td>Telephone: 0417 390 908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Bundarra Drive</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:lakeretreat@icloud.com">lakeretreat@icloud.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQUEAKING POINT TAS 7307</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sporting Shooters’ Association of Australia</strong></td>
<td>Telephone: 0439 949 158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 516</td>
<td>Website: ssaatas.com.au</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLENORCHY TAS 7010</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@ssaatas.com.au">secretary@ssaatas.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee</strong></td>
<td>Telephone: 0413 999 279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/- PO Box 2079</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:tasdeerac@gmail.com">tasdeerac@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPREYTON TAS 7310</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tasmanian Field and Game Association Inc.</strong></td>
<td>Telephone: 0418 124 171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/- 41 High Street</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:sales@newnorfolkgunshop.com">sales@newnorfolkgunshop.com</a></td>
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